XXXIX.—*Revision of the Noctuid Genus* Melipotis, *Hübn.*, *with Descriptions of Two new Species.* By Arthur G. Butler, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

The genus *Melipotis* (*Bolina*, Guen., and *Leucanitis*, auct.) has been wrongly made the type of a separate family—Bolinidæ—by Guenée. As a matter of fact it is closely allied to the Old-World genus *Ercheia* (confounded by some authors with *Melipotis*, Hübn.), and varies precisely in a similar manner.

The earlier authors imagined that the variation which exists in the species of *Melipotis*, and more particularly in individuals of the female sex, represented permanent and distinct types; but a careful examination of a series obtained from any one locality soon demonstrates the fact that, whereas there is little variation in the pattern of the posterior wings and the under surface of all the wings, the variation of the upper surface of the anterior wings is often quite remarkable and has led to the needless multiplication of species.

Since taking up the study of the genus I have come across a paper on West-Indian species of *Melipotis* by the late Dr. Moeschler, in which he shows that he evidently arrived at much the same conclusion as I have done. Unfortunately his material was inferior to that of the Museum collection. Though I could wish that we had finer series of some of the species, there are very few forms of which we do not possess representatives, or, at any rate, examples of nearly allied types. I have therefore come to the conclusion that it will be advantageous to students to publish the result of my study of our material.

Melipotis cailino.

Ophiusa cailino, Lefebvre, Ann. Soc. Linn. Paris, vi. p. 96, pl. v.

Asia Minor, Caucasus, Schuscha. In B. M.

Our three examples of this species show very little variation; but a large series would probably exhibit the usual variability of the genus.

Melipotis inepta.

♀. *Thria? inepta*, Butler, P. Z. S. 1881, p. 620.

Chaman, S. Afghanistan. Type B. M.

I think it possible that this may be the female of *M. flexuosa*; but the borders of the primaries below are broadly white,

with a black apical spot, whereas in *M. flexuosa* they are brown with a white subapical costal spot. As such differences do not occur in other species of the genus, it is better to keep the two types separate until a series can be examined; the figure of *M. flexuosa* agrees with our example of it.

Melipotis flexuosa.

Ophiusa flexuosa, Ménétriés, Mém. Acad. Imp. St. Pétersb. vol. vi. p. 292, pl. vi. fig. 5 (1848).

"Abscheron." B. M.

Whether the word on the label is a locality or not, I have not been able to discover. Staudinger gives the localities "Shores of the Caspian, Syria, Southern Pontus, and S.E. Kirghis."

Melipotis picta.

Leucanitis picta, Staudinger, Stett. ent. Zeit. xxxviii. p. 192 (1877).

Krasnow. B. M.

We have three examples exhibiting no great variation; that the species does vary in the usual way is, however, proved by the note in Romanoff (Mém. vol. iii. p. 91):—"Among the many examples from Askhabad two females are remarkable for their unusual size and dark hind wings; the spots are, however, not, as usual, white, but brownish."

It has been asserted that *Leucanitis* and *Melipotis* are synonymous, and as *L. rada* seems undoubtedly to be a *Melipotis*, this is correct; but all the species placed by Dr. Staudinger under *Leucanitis* are not congeneric: *L. cestis* and *Palpangula Henkei* differ entirely from *Melipotis* in their palpal structure and may both be placed under *Palpangula*.

Melipotis ochrodes.

♂. *Bolina ochrodes*, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 64. n. 1400 (1852).
♀. *Bolina heliothoides*, Guenée, *l. c.* p. 68. n. 1410 (1852).
♂ ♀. *Bolina terminifera*, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1151. n. 16 (1857).
♂. *Melipotis nigrescens*, Grote (see Check-List, p. 39. n. 1144).

Venezuela, St. Domingo, Jamaica, Texas. In B. M.

Var. *manipularis.*

♀. *Bolina manipularis*, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 68. n. 1409 (1852).
Bolina indomita, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1161. n. 33 (1857).
♂. *Melipotis ochreipennis*, Harvey (see Grote, Check-List, p. 39. n. 1145).

♂ ♀, Brazil and Kansas. In B. M.

Variable as this species is there is a wonderful uniformity of pattern, with dissimilarity of colouring, in the primaries of all our specimens, even the little oblique white line across the end of the discoidal cell being invariably present. It is unfortunate that the name *ochrodes* should be the oldest, as it represents a varietal form of the male of which *M. ochreipennis* is only a larger and slightly darker sport; the central belt in this form is more or less ochreous and the base of the wing is very dark. Guenée's *B. heliothoides* was based upon a female in which the primaries were almost uniformly ashy grey, the markings being indistinct; we have females of this type from Venezuela and St. Domingo and a series of males forming a transition from it to Walker's *B. terminifera*, which is identical with Grote's *M. nigrescens*. The form separated as var. *manipularis* is composed of rather large specimens, the secondaries of which tend more or less to become dusky; but the distinction is purely an arbitrary one, and the specific identity of *M. manipularis* with *M. ochrodes* is undoubted.

Melipotis pallescens.

Melipotis pallescens, Grote and Robinson (see Check-List, p. 39. n. 1146).

United States. In B. M.

This species is allied to *M. ochrodes*, but differs chiefly in the angular outer edge to the basal area of primaries and the very narrow border to secondaries. It appears to be a good distinct species. One example (not the type) was in the Grote collection. The narrow border to secondaries alone would not suffice to distinguish this species, as some examples of *M. ochrodes* vary considerably in this respect.

Walker has greatly complicated the identification of M. Guenée's species by placing specimens under his names which do not correspond at all with his descriptions, and redescribing them as var.? in each case; of course the true species of the French author are redescribed as new forms.

Melipotis marmoraris.

Bolina marmoraris, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 67. n. 1407 (1852).
Bolina famelica, Walker (not Guenée), Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1146. n. 6 (1857).
Bolina januaris, Walker (not Guenée), *l. c.* p. 1149. n. 9 (1857).
Bolina glaucipennis, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1153. n. 19 (1857).
Bolina disturbans, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1162. n. 35 (1857).
Achæa indistincta, Butler, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 488. n. 100.

Venezuela, Honduras, St. Domingo, Jamaica. In B. M.

Var. *stolida*.

Bolina stolida, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1162. n. 34 (1857).
Bolina excepta, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1165. n. 40 (1857).
Melipotis stygialis, Grote (on type label).

Venezuela, Honduras, and United States. In B. M.

The whole of these specimens correspond in the position of the markings on the primaries, even to the little white transverse marking on the discocellulars, although they, as usual, show considerable variation in ground-colour; they also agree in the pattern of the secondaries and under surface, and therefore I have not the slightest hesitation in pronouncing them slight variations of one species.

With regard to *Melipotis stygialis*, two specimens so labelled were in the Grote collection, one of them marked "type," and as they are not included under *Melipotis* in the 'Check-List' of 1882, I can only suppose that they were subsequently described; they are simply larger specimens of the insect from Venezuela to which Walker gave the name *Bolina excepta*.

Melipotis perpendicularis.

Bolina perpendicularis, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 65. n. 1404 (1852).
Var. *Bolina limitata*, Moeschler, Abh. senck. Ges. xiv. p. 55, pl. —. fig. 16 (1886).

Venezuela, Honduras, and Jamaica. In B. M.

Our examples of this species show very little variation; it is allied to *M. marmoraris*. Moeschler figured a slight variety.

Melipotis januaris.

Bolina januaris, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 67. n. 1406 (1852).
Bolina russaris, Guenée, *l. c.* p. 69. n. 1411 (1852).
Bolina excavans, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1154. n. 21 (1857).
Bolina subtilis, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1156. n. 24 (1857).

St. Domingo. In B. M.

B. excavans is typical *M. januaris* and *B. subtilis* is an intermediate form linking it to *B. russaris*; all the forms are identical on the under surface, which is rather peculiar and not likely to be confounded with that of any other species; the upper surface of the secondaries also shows no variation and that of the primaries corresponds as regards the defined markings, although in *B. russaris* they are barely indicated.

Melipotis surinamensis.

♂. *Bolina surinamensis,* Moeschler, "Beitr. Schmett. Surin.," in Verhandl. zool.-botan. Gesellsch. Wien, 1876, p. 416. n. 65.
♀ (as ♂). *Bolina sphærita,* Moeschler, *l. c.* p. 417. n. 66, pl. viii. fig. 4 (1876).

Surinam. ♂, "Ecu." (Ecuador?). In B. M.

I have no doubt that Moeschler has wrongly sexed his female; the style of coloration given occurs in no male *Melipotis* that I have ever seen, but corresponds closely with the red form of female of *M. januaris.* The description of the male corresponds pretty closely with our solitary male, which nearly resembles *M. januaris* ♂ on the upper surface, though widely differing below.

Melipotis bisinuata.

Bolina bisinuata, Felder, Reise der Nov., Lep. iv. pl. cxii. fig. 19.

Goya, Argentine Republic (*Perrins*). In B. M.

Allied to *M. cellaris,* but readily distinguishable by the pale brownish-buff secondaries with dusky veins, blackish at base of median branches, and by the paler basicostal area of primaries and form of the whitish transverse band, which barely interrupts that area; the black triangular patch on inner margin towards the base also has an angular outer edge.

Melipotis cellaris.

Bolina cellaris, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 66. n. 1405 (1852).
Bolina turbata, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1160. n. 32 (1857).
Panula insipida, Felder, Reise der Nov., Lep. iv. pl. cxii. fig. 16.
Panula inconstans, Grote (not Guenée), Check-List, p. 39. n. 1114.

Venezuela and Texas. In B. M.

As we only have three examples of this species there is not much scope for variation.

Melipotis parens.

Bolina parens, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1154. n. 20 (1852).

St. Domingo. Type in B. M.

A single example only; it has characters in common with *M. januaris,* but the pattern of the under surface differs so much that without intermediate forms it is impossible to regard it as a variety of that species.

Melipotis famelica.

Bolina famelica, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 62. n. 1396 (1852).
Bolina bivittata, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1156. n. 23 (1857).

St. Domingo, St. Vincent, Jamaica, Honduras, Venezuela. In B. M.

Melipotis imparallela.

Bolina imparallela, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 65. n. 1402 (1852).
Var.? *Melipotis nigrobasis*, Guenée, *l. c.* n. 1403 (1852).

Colombia, Mexico.

The description of the primaries in this species seems to indicate affinity to *M. cellaris*, but the secondaries seem to bring it nearer to *M. famelica*. Mr. Druce's figure (Biol. Centr.-Am. tab. xxxi. fig. 13), from the type forwarded by M. Oberthür, does not correspond with the description by M. Guenée, but agrees pretty closely with the male of *M. fasciolaris*, var. *cunearis*, Guen. According to that author his type is 41 millim. in expanse (3 more than in the figure), "the upper wings are of a dark grey-brown, slightly violaceous, with the basal area clearer, flesh-tinted, cut obliquely and traversed by several fine, indistinct, parallel, approximated grey lines. A straight central band, oblique in the opposite direction, of the same colour as the base, and divided also by three fine reddish threads, against the last of which the extracellular patch is attached, oval, oblong, or often reniform and broader than the band, of a clear yellowish-flesh tint. Between the two bands the area is varied with black, and beyond the latter the black forms little spines." So far the description differs in almost every particular from the species figured as Guenée's type, and therefore I can only suppose that, since the publication of the third volume of the 'Noctuélites,' the type-label has been accidentally transferred to the wrong species. Until I had made up my mind respecting the synonymy of the species in this genus, I refrained from looking to see what Mr. Druce had done with regard to it; therefore I am agreeably surprised to find that where he has put species together he has, in almost every instance, come to the same conclusion as I have. He has, it is true, not gone so far as I have done, and in the case of *M. famelica* he has adopted Walker's identification (which is certainly incorrect, as the description shows); but in the main we are agreed.

Melipotis novanda.

Bolina novanda, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 64. n. 1399 (1852).
Bolina lucigera?, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1152. n. 17 (1857).

St. Domingo. In B. M.

I do not feel quite certain of this identification, but Walker's species answers pretty closely to M. Guenée's description. Walker's identification was utterly erroneous, the example from Jamaica being *M. famelica.*

Melipotis evelina.

Bolina evelina, Butler, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 487. n. 94.

Jamaica. Type in B. M.

Allied to the preceding species, but, I think, distinct, the postdiscoidal spot being externally bidentate instead of tridentate.

Melipotis strigifera.

Bolina strigifera, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1153. n. 18 (1852).

St. Domingo. Type in B. M.

This species differs from the following in the undentated character of the postdiscoidal spot of primaries.

Melipotis contorta.

Bolina contorta, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 64. n. 1401 (1852).
Bolina bistriga, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1155. n. 22 (1857).
Bolina striolaris, Herrich-Schäffer, Corr.-Blatt zool. min. Ver. Regensb. 1868, p. 186.

St. Domingo. In B. M.

Melipotis comprehendens.

Bolina comprehendens, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1163. n. 37 (1852).

Brazil. Type in B. M.

This species is intermediate in character between *M. contorta* and *M. prolata*; it is of the same size as the former, with a similarly bidentated postdiscoidal spot on primaries; but in the obscure character of its markings, in the pattern of the secondaries and of the under surface, it more nearly approaches the latter.

Melipotis prolata.

Gerespa prolata, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1169. n. 1 (1857).

Jamaica. Type in B. M.

If the type of *Melipotis* should be considered generically distinct from the bulk of the species on account of the fan-shaped brush of hairs on the middle legs of the male, most of the other species would have to be referred to *Gerespa*, of which this is the type; I believe, however, that the apparent absence of the brush in most males is simply due to the fact of its being concealed in its sheath, for one male of *M. famelica* in our series shows a few isolated hairs, and a male of *M. fasciolaris* shows a brush on one side only.

Melipotis gubernata.

Bolina gubernata, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1163. n. 36 (1852).
Bolina decreta, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1164. n. 39 (1852).

Pará and Honduras. Type in B. M.

Closely allied to *M. prolata*, but with the basal half of the secondaries above and the basal two thirds of the primaries below white; the white postdiscoidal spot on the under surface of the latter wings is also larger.

Melipotis fasciolaris.

♂. *Ædia fasciolaris*, Hübner, Exot. Schmett. Zutr. figs. 443, 444.
♀. *Bolina limitaris*, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 70. n. 1413 (1852).
Bolina cunearis, Guenée, *l. c.* n. 1414 (1852).
Bolina fuscaris, Guenée, *l. c.* n. 1415 (1852).
♂. *Bolina illuminans*, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1164. n. 38 (1857).

United States, Veragua, Trinidad, Honduras, Venezuela, St. Domingo, Rio Jurua, Tapajos, São Paulo, Lake Iguarazu. In B. M.

The male varies very little, but the female considerably. *B. cunearis*, Guen., in spite of the almost entire obliteration of the postdiscoidal spot on the upper surface of the primaries, is most like the male in colouring, and *B. fuscaris* is least like; the latter, however, appears to be the commonest form of the female. Guenée's "male" of *B. cunearis* is probably a female. When the frenulum is not examined it is natural to suppose a smaller and more slender-bodied female to be a male.

Melipotis jucunda.

Melipotis jucunda, Hübner, Exot. Schmett. Zutr. figs. 181, 182.

United States. In B. M.

Like the preceding species *M. jucunda* varies more in the female than in the male sex.

Melipotis rada.

Microphisa rada, Boisduval, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 2e sér. vi. Bull. xxx. p. 12.

Helenendorf. In B. M.

Bulia, Walker (=*Biula*, Walk.).

This little genus, if distinct from *Melipotis*, is very nearly allied to it. All the examples which I have seen have the third joint of the palpi short and projecting forward from the extremity of the second; the males have very finely ciliated antennæ. Herr Snellen has, however, figured two totally different types of palpi for his *Bolina abrupta*; otherwise I should have supposed them to be mere sports of Guenée's *Bolina brunnearis*, of which the following is the synonymy:—

Bulia brunnearis.

Bolina brunnearis, Guenée, Noct. iii. p. 68. n. 1408 (1852).
Bolina confirmans, Walker, Lep. Het. xiii. p. 1157. n. 25 (1857).
Bolina umbrosa, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1158. n. 26 (1857).
Bolina recipiens, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1165. n. 41 (1857).
Biula propria, Walker, *l. c.* p. 1170. n. 1 (1857).
Arsisaca bolinalis, Walker, *l. c.* Suppl. iv. p. 1262 (1865).

St. Domingo, Venezuela, and Jamaica. In B. M.

Three of Walker's five types are of the same variety and nearly resemble in pattern Snellen's figure 1 of *B. abrupta*, whereas the two others are of the type represented by his figure 2.

Bulia abrupta.

Bolina abrupta, Snellen, Tijdschr. voor Ent. xxx. p. 44, pl. iv. figs. 1, 1 *a*, 2, 2 *a* (1887).

Curaçao.

I fail to see any reason for separating *Cirrhobolina* from *Bulia*; both pattern and structure seem to agree admirably.

Melipotis agrotipennis, Harvey, is *Bolina agrotoides*, Walker, and belongs to the genus *Pandesma*.

Leucanitis tenera, Staudinger (in litt.?), from Russia, and its variety *L. antiqua* (Stett. ent. Zeit. 1887, p. 56), *L. nana*, and perhaps *Palpangula cestina* and *spilota* (Romanoff's Mém. Lép. i. pl. ix. figs. 6, 7, and 8), probably belong to Walker's genus *Anumeta*; *L. tenera* certainly does, for it not only has almost the same pattern and coloration, but agrees in structure, the third joint of the palpi being very short.

Leucanitis sinuosa, Staudinger, in Romanoff's Mém. vol. i. pl. ix. fig. 5, and *L. Saissani*, in vol. ii. pl. iii. fig. 13, from Helenendorf, seem to be scarcely distinct from *M. flexuosa*, certainly less so than my *M. inepta*.

"*Leucanitis*" *stolida*, Fabr., is a *Grammodes*.

L. obscurata, Staudinger, Romanoff's Mém. vol. v. (1889), is unknown to me.

Melipotis ambidens and *Gundiani*, Felder, Reise der Nov., Lep. iv. pl. cxvi. figs. 9 and 10, are referable to *Ercheia*; and *Leucanitis Schraderi*, Felder, *l. c.* fig. 7, is *Dysgonia latizona*.

Melipotis strigipennis and *costipannosa* of Moore, Lep. Atk. Coll. (see pl. v. fig. 8), from Darjiling, are both species of *Ercheia*.

Bolina revulsa, Wallengren, Œfvers. Akad. Förhandl. xxxii. p. 116 (1876), from the Transvaal, appears to be somewhat allied to *M. rada*, but may, perhaps, not belong to the genus.

Leucanitis Hedemanni, Staudinger, Stett. ent. Zeit. xlix. p. 257 (1888), to judge by the description, must be a *Dysgonia* allied to *D. algira*. It is from the Amur and China.

Leucanitis aberrans, Staudinger, Stett. ent. Zeit. xlix. p. 49, from Kuldja, is allied to *L. tenera*, and therefore is a species of *Anumeta*. *L. sesquilina*, l. c. p. 51, from Samarcand, may be my *M. inepta*, in which case, of course, it will fall. At the same time, judging by the variability of other species of *Melipotis*, I am convinced that Staudinger has unnecessarily split up the *M. cailino* group, which may consist of only one variable species.

Snellen's *Bolina? calamioides* seems to me to have little in common with *Melipotis* (see Tijd. voor Ent. xxx. p. 47, pl. iv. figs. 3, 3 *a*, 1887); according to the figure it does not even belong to the Quadrifidæ.

Melipotis tenella, H. Edwards, from N.W. Texas (Papilio, i. p. 26, 1881), may be a form of the female of *B. fasciolaris*; but, as I have not seen an example compared with the type, I cannot speak with certainty.

Melipotis perlæta, H. Edwards, from Arizona (Papilio, ii. p. 14), is also unknown to me; but it is probably only a female variety of *M. ochrodes*.

The description of *Bolina mesoleuca*, Walker, Char. Het. Lep. p. 51 (1869), is utterly unintelligible and probably represents a species of some other family. No locality is recorded.

Bolina agrotidea, Mabille, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 3e sér. vol. i. p. 346 (1879), from Madagascar, of course has nothing to do with the genus; but what it is I cannot pretend to say. It is not included in Saalmüller's work published in 1884. Perhaps, in the absence of any positive knowledge of its affinities, this species may be best placed under *Tarasana*, Moore, to which genus *Melipotis sinualis*, Harvey (= *Bolina acontioides*) belongs.

I believe that *Bolina hadeniformis*, Behr, Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. iii. p. 25 (1871), from California, is nothing more than one of the many female varieties of *M. ochrodes*. We have a female from St. Domingo for which the description might have been written. Every form of this variable species seems to have been favoured with a name.

Moeschler considers *Bolina leucomelana*, Herrich-Schäffer, Corr.-Blatt zool.-min. Ver. Regensb. 1868, p. 186, from Cuba, to be allied to *Melipotis contorta*, but distinct; some of the characters by which he distinguishes it are, however, possessed by our examples of *M. contorta*. *B. rectifascia*, H.-Sch. (*loc. cit.*), appears to me to be *M. perpendicularis*, and according to Moeschler *M. parcicolor* is only a worn example of *M. rectifascia*.

Several species placed by Staudinger in his Catalogue under *Leucanitis* are unknown to me, and may or may not belong to this genus.

Having thus summed up the named species of *Melipotis*, I find that I have two species to name, viz. :—

Melipotis Walkeri, sp. n.

♂. Primaries above with the basal fifth pale greyish brown, bounded externally by a slightly sinuous blackish band, tapering from inner margin to costal vein and followed by a broad clear ochreous belt; the latter twice as wide on inner margin as at its anterior extremity, with convex inner and concave outer margin; this belt is connected (after the manner of that of *M. perpendicularis*) by an oblique grey bar to the reniform spot, which is confluent with the latter, grey enclosing two black dots, margined on the upper half of its inner margin by a curved, transverse, black-edged white

dash, and separated from the greyish testaceous postdiscoidal patch by a slender trisinuated white line; the form of the postdiscoidal patch is like that of *M. perpendicularis*, and (as in that species) a very irregular slender black line runs round its outer edge inwards along the little grey connecting bar and outwards along the edge of the ochreous belt; the small quadrate patch within the cell enclosed between the anterior portion of the ochreous belt and the reniform spot is dull reddish clay-coloured; the irregular interval (tapering from costa) between the postdiscoidal patch and the external area is grey varied towards costa with clay-colour and bounded externally with blackish; the external area itself is formed as in *M. perpendicularis*, is whity brown clouded externally and obliquely streaked at apex with grey; the fringe is pale buff, traversed by two imperfect wide grey stripes: secondaries with the basiabdominal third greyish white, silvery opaline towards costa, dusky at base of median branches; centre of wing from costa to near anal angle occupied by a semitransparent decreasing white belt, slightly tinted at its extremities and on the centre of the interrupting nervures with buff; apical area and external border deep bronze-brown; the nervures as they pass from the central white belt on to the brown area being blackish, so as to form short streaks; a blackish spot at centre of outer margin, bounded on each side by pale ochreous marginal spots, a third pale ochreous spot at apex; fringe white, more or less tinted with grey-brown opposite to the intervals between the ochreous spots: body grey, decreasing in intensity from the head backwards, the anal tuft being almost white; below whitish. Under surface of wings very similar to that of *M. bisinuata*, but much whiter, and with the brown areas paler and more restricted; the white belt of the secondaries as above (not irregularly curved as in *M. bisinuata*) and with no trace of the black discocellular spot or blackish streaks at the base of the median branches and radial vein.

Expanse of wings 38 millim.

Two examples. Callao (*J. J. Walker*). Type in B. M.

I have named this pretty little species in honour of its indefatigable collector, to whose zeal and patriotism the Museum is indebted for many rare and beautiful new species.

It is rather difficult to decide upon the best position in the genus for *M. Walkeri*, since it combines characters found in *M. ochrodes*, *perpendicularis*, and *bisinuata*; I think perhaps it will stand most naturally next to the last of these three.

Melipotis Yerburyi, sp. n.

♂. Primaries above greyish brown, slightly inclining to olivaceous *; a basi-internal streak or oblique patch, a slightly irregular and curved black-edged belt from costa to inner margin before the middle, the postdiscoidal patch and a transverse subapical costal spot white, stained with buff at their extremities and on the veins; outer edge of the post-discoidal patch black, forming three sharp angles; costal area beyond it blackish, interrupted by the subapical spot; reniform spot blackish and ill-defined; external area pale, sprinkled near the margin with white scales, its inner edge widely undulated; a series of ill-defined black marginal dots, barely distinguishable from a slender blackish marginal line; fringe flecked with white: secondaries with the basi-abdominal half pure white, slightly opaline, the median and submedian veins streaked with brown; external half dark greyish brown, the outer margin from apex to below first median branch snow-white, interrupted at the centre of the margin by a large black spot which extends into the fringe; remainder of fringe (excepting at anal angle, where it is grey-brown) white; head, palpi, and front of anterior legs clear pale buff; collar buff in the middle, grey-brown at the sides; thorax deeper sordid buff, the tegulæ with brown-tipped scales; abdomen sericeous whitish buff. Under surface snow-white; the outer third of the primaries and an oblique bar from its posterior extremity across the end of the cell to the costal vein deep bronze-brown; a white subapical spot as above and the fringe spotted with white: secondaries as above, excepting that there are no dusky streaks across the basal area on the veins.

Expanse of wings 37 millim.

Aden (*Major Yerbury*). Type in B. M.

This very well-marked and charming species is named in honour of Major J. W. Yerbury, whose generosity in placing the whole of his collections of Lepidoptera at the disposal of the Museum has been of the greatest service in adding numerous novelties to the collection.

The position of *M. Yerburyi* is undoubtedly near to *M. inepta* and *flexuosa*, but it is decidedly more striking and beautiful than either.

* Possibly an optical illusion, due to the proximity of buff on the white markings.